

interest whatever in the cause of foreign missions; when I learned what sacrifices others were making that the gospel might be preached to all men; when I learned how God was blessing the efforts of such as were earnestly engaged in universal evangelization, my heart was crushed, and I became ashamed almost of my people, and, to be frank, my first impulse was to leave them and join heart and hand with such as were obeying the former part of the great commission as explicitly as we were obeying the latter. But when the first impulse had passed away, when I was able to look more calmly at the aspect of affairs, the voice of the Spirit indicated to my mind that it was my duty under God to stay where I was and arouse a sleeping church to a sense of her privilege and duty. I heeded that voice and at once commenced to agitate the question of foreign missions through the EVANGELIST, and also at the National Conference of '96. At this conference there was a decided missionary spirit manifest and there the Chicago mission was born, but foreign missions seemed to touch but few hearts of sympathy, and were but barely recognized by resolution. I left that conference grieved and disappointed, feeling that God's richest blessings would never rest upon us until we complied with the letter and spirit of the whole commission in a practical way. I have since then learned to be more quiet before God and abide his time to do his work.

The seed sown by agitation has, however, already commenced to germinate and grow. In my mind's eye I can now see small rootlets striking out in every direction, which will soon sprout into visible, vigorous, growing plants. The Holy Spirit is finding his way into the hearts of some of our dear people. Praise the Lord.

It would not have been difficult at the late National Conference to have organized a separate foreign mission board, but as the General Board was reorganized upon a broad representative basis, and as at least some of the members of the reorganized board are in hearty sympathy with foreign missions, it seemed to be unwise, or at least unnecessary, to have two boards to carry out the aims of the General Board. The new board is greatly interested in home missions, and foreign missions as well, and will keep the fires burning for both.

My personal interest and zeal in foreign missions has not abated in the least, and as a mere member of the General Board I should still continue to almost exclusively press that side of our work, but having been chosen secretary of the General Board as well as of the foreign interest, it

becomes my duty to give preeminence to the home work because of immediate home needs. We have three recognized home missions—Chicago, Washington and Dayton—all in need of immediate and constant help; consequently the most pressing appeal of the board at present is for the support of the work already under way.

Owing to the deep interest I feel in missions generally, I had some desire to be either on a foreign or the General Board, but I had in no way anticipated the position of secretary, as I felt that I had enough to do to attend to the affairs of the Publication Board, but as the office has come to me without seeking, I accept it as being in the divine order. It will involve me in much labor and great responsibility; from letters from different brethren I learn that there is a great deal expected from me. It may as well be known now as later that I am actively engaged in private business, consequently cannot leave home to organize the work as it should be organized; the success of it will, therefore, depend upon the co-operation of the entire board and of the ministry of the church. According to the wisdom the Lord may give me I will try to devise ways and means to actively engage the entire church, but their execution will depend largely upon the faithfulness and interest of others.

There are large possibilities before us. I venture the assertion, after the most careful consideration, that the Brethren church is eminently able to contribute \$50,000 a year toward education and missions without one member denying himself, or herself, from one actual necessity of life. If this is true, we are guilty before God if we do not give it. God has nowhere promised to supply our *wants*, only our *needs*. When these are supplied he expects us to look after the needs of others.

At the late National Conference I called attention to the fact that one cent a day from each one of the fifteen thousand members of the church would amount to \$54,750 a year. I trust every one will ponder these possibilities and responsibilities because they are possible. Just a little economy or a little sacrifice on the part of every one would do it, and thus enable us to put every institution in the Brethren church on its feet financially. Not every one could afford to give even the small sum of one cent a day, but then, too, there are many that ought to be ashamed to offer any such trivial amount to God for the evangelization of the world.

Just for a moment let us look at our excesses—our candy and ice cream bills,

the chewing-gum and tobacco bills, the excessive dress bills, the bicycle bills, fine carriage bills, excessive furniture bills, unnecessary traveling expense, useless reading matter, picnics, sociables, and the thousand and one other small excesses that enter into the ordinary every day life; contemplate the fact that because of these excesses in the Christian church a hundred thousand souls go to eternity every day without a knowledge of God or hope of life. We are not in the habit of keeping account of these trifles, but the probability is that the angels of heaven do, and some day we shall be called upon to give an account of our stewardship.

At the conference a number expressed a willingness to contribute a penny a day, and since then others have written to the same effect. Moreover the National Conference passed a resolution that every member of the church should contribute at least one cent a month toward the work of the General Mission Board. These facts suggest the necessity of instituting some method, or system, or plan, to gather up these pennies or small contributions. It will not be a small thing to do, but I believe it can and ought to be done. "Bear ye one another's burdens," is a divine command. Heretofore the burden of general expenses and enterprises has rested upon the few. This should not be so; there ought to be no unwilling or involuntary gift in the treasury of God.

With a view of reaching as nearly as possible every member of the church and of our Sunday-schools, and affording all an opportunity to contribute to the cause of world-wide missions in such amounts as they are able or willing to give, I shall issue, as the secretary of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, a blank pledge in the following form:

"God loveth a cheerful giver."

CONTRIBUTION PLEDGE OF THE MISSIONARY BOARD OF THE BRETHREN CHURCH.

I hereby pledge myself to contribute to the cause of missions in the Brethren church the following amount, or amounts:

Home Missions.....Per month
Foreign Missions....."
Chicago Mission....."
Washington Mission....."
Dayton Mission....."

Name.....

P. O. Address.....

Date.....189.. State.....

Contributors will please designate the amount and the fund they desire to give to, sign their name and address, and mail this pledge with or without money to the